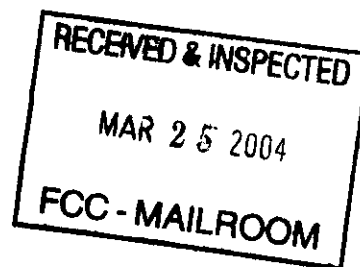


Clark Point Rd
West Tremont, ME 04612

March 8, 2004



Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D C 20554

Re WT Docket No 01-309

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petitions filed by various parties requesting the Commission to reconsider the Report and Order that modified the exemption for wireless phones under the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1998

The FCC rules requires digital phone manufacturers and service providers to take steps to reduce the amount of interference emitted from digital wireless phones and to provide the internal capability for telecoil coupling. Please keep the rule intact so that people like me, who must use hearing aids, can have access to digital wireless phones.

As a consumer with hearing loss, who uses hearing aids, these requirements are vital if I am to be able to function in my everyday life. It has become increasingly difficult to find or afford analog service. Pay phones are either out of order or disappearing completely and I have not been successful in finding a digital mobile phone that I can use successfully with my telecoil. I am very hopeful that, as the industry complies with the FCC rule, I will have the option to buy/use a digital mobile phone like everyone else.

Being able to "test drive" the phone in the store before I purchase a plan is also very important. It is inconvenient to have to buy the phone, find out when I get home that it does not work with my hearing aid, then lose money when I break the service contract for which I have already paid. The 50% requirement is reasonable, both for me to have choices and not to place a burden on the manufacturers. Please do not reduce the percentage requirement.

Thank you for listening to me and please retain the rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Voorhies".

Marilyn Voorhies

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